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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 5
Peaceful uses of outer space

Contents

	Page
Overall orientation	2
Legislative mandates	4

* A/59/50 and Corr.1

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Overall orientation

5.1 The overall purpose of the programme is the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for economic, social and scientific development. The need for international cooperation in space activities and the importance of using outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes were first recognized by the General Assembly in its resolution 1348 (XIII) of 13 December 1958. By its resolution 1472 A (XIV) of 12 December 1959, the General Assembly established the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The direction of the programme is provided in resolutions of the General Assembly and decisions of the Committee, its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and their subsidiary bodies. Recommendations of particular relevance for the work to be undertaken under this programme are contained in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development", adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999.

5.2 In the Vienna Declaration, the importance of space science and technology and their applications to the enhancement of environmental monitoring, the management of natural resources, disaster management, weather and climate forecasting, health, fundamental knowledge of the universe, education and health, as well as the contributions of global navigation satellite systems to the promotion of sustainable development and of satellite communications to bridging the digital divide was recognized. Additionally, the Declaration stressed the importance of providing girls and women with opportunities to participate in and benefit from space activities. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 56/51, 57/116 and 58/89, efforts continue to be made to bring the benefits of the use of space technology to the attention of the conferences organized within the United Nations system to address global issues relating to social, economic and cultural development. Particular emphasis is placed on promoting the use of space science and technology in implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society.

5.3 Through implementation of the programme, strengthened efforts at the international, regional and national levels will also be made to integrate space-based services and systems, in particular into the infrastructure of developing countries, so as to maximize the benefits of space science and technology and their applications for sustained economic and social development and the enhancement of human development and welfare. These efforts would be achieved through the promotion of universal adherence to international space law and by expanding international cooperation among countries with the involvement of entities of the United Nations system and space-related international entities, including non-governmental organizations and industry, as appropriate.

Objective of the Organization: To deepen the understanding of the international community with respect to the contributions of space science and technology and their applications to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society, taking into account their correlation with the strategy contained in the Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Greater adherence by the international community to the international legal regime established by the United Nations to govern outer space activities	(a) Increase in the number of States having ratified the five major United Nations treaties governing outer space activities
(b) Increased support for developing countries in using space applications in the priority areas of sustainable development, as identified by the World Summit on Sustainable Development	(b) Increased number of entities that support the capacity-building activities and technical advisory services of the Office for Outer Space Affairs
(c) Strengthening of mechanisms within more countries to coordinate their space-related policy matters and space activities	(c) Increased number of countries that have established, with the assistance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, coordination mechanisms within their Governments for matters relating to space activities

Strategy

5.4 The Office for Outer Space Affairs is substantively responsible for the implementation of the programme. The overall strategy of the Office in meeting the objective of the programme includes:

(a) Assisting in consensus-building among Member States and other entities of the United Nations system as well as national and international space-related entities, as appropriate, on the priorities and common objectives to be achieved through cooperation in the area of the peaceful uses of outer space;

(b) Strengthening the capacity, in particular of developing countries, in the development of national space law and legislation, in conformity with the international legal regime established by the United Nations to govern outer space activities and supporting the progressive development of international space law;

(c) Supporting the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular those that have relevance to the actions recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society;

(d) Strengthening capacity of the developing countries in the use and applications of space science and technology for sustainable development and increasing awareness of decision makers of the benefits of space science and technology and their applications in addressing societal needs for sustainable development through further international cooperation among Member States and

national and international space-related entities, including the private sector, as appropriate, and further cooperation and coordination among entities of the United Nations system.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

1472 A (XIV)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
1721 B (XVI)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
2453 (XXIII)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
3235 (XXIX)	Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space
37/90	Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
54/67	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
54/68	Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
55/122	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
56/51	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
57/116	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
58/89	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
58/90	Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space